

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended to call for optically programming a phase change memory after electrically programming a phase change memory. This is consistent with the disclosure of the present application which suggests interchangeable optical and electrical programming.

Both of the cited references teach away from this concept. Nangle, for one, teaches only initially optically programming the memory and, thereafter, exclusively electrically programming the memory. Similarly, Lu teaches away from the claimed invention by suggesting only optically programming the memory.

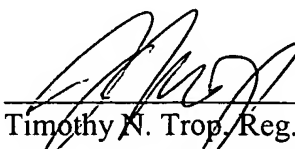
It is respectfully submitted that nothing in the prior art teaches the concept of reprogramming optically after programming electrically. Perhaps prior workers in the field have believed that the state of the memory would become confused if one attempted to optically program after electrically programming. That is, the system would think the memory is in one state when, in fact, it is in another state and the system would not work. However, as pointed out in the present application, by simply checking the state of the cell before reprogramming it, this inconsistency can be ameliorated.

Thus, the sum total of the prior art teaches away from the claimed invention and suggests that what is claimed should not be attempted. To suggest that simply combining the two would meet the claimed invention does not work because neither cited reference teaches programming optically after programming electrically. Presumably, it was believed by the prior inventors that this would result in an indeterminate memory state.

Therefore, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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